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Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 2063 (2012), by which the Council requested me to continue reporting every 90 days on progress in the implementation of the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The report includes an update on the situation in Darfur covering the period from 1 April to 30 June 2013. It also includes an assessment of progress against the updated benchmarks and indicators contained in my report to the Council of 16 October 2012 (S/2012/771, annex I).

II. Political development

Negotiations towards an inclusive peace agreement

2. Efforts to secure a comprehensive and inclusive peace agreement for Darfur have yielded limited results. Since the conclusion of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (Doha Document) between the Government of the Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) in 2011, one breakaway faction of the non-signatory armed movements has signed an agreement adopting the Doha Document, a development which soon thereafter suffered a setback.

3. On 6 April, the Justice and Equality Movement-Sudan, a faction led by Mohamed Basher (JEM-Bashar), formally signed that agreement in Doha, Qatar. Less than two weeks later, JEM-Bashar forces and the forces led by Gibril Ibrahim (JEM-Gibril) clashed on 18 and 19 April near Darma village (30 km north-west of Um Baru, Northern Darfur). Two JEM-Bashar fighters were killed, including a high-ranking field commander, and nine others were injured. On 12 May, while the JEM-Bashar leadership was returning through Chad to Darfur to begin implementation of the Doha Document, Mohamed Bashar, his deputy, Arku Suleiman Dahiya, and a reported eight others from his faction were killed by JEM-Gibril in Bamina (60 km north of Tine, Northern Darfur), near the Sudan-Chad border. A total of 20 JEM-Bashar members were also alleged to have been taken hostage by JEM-Gibril forces. On 25 May, JEM-Bashar announced the selection of Bakheit Abdalla Abdel-Karim as its interim leader and reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Doha Document.

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4. On 4 June, the Implementation Follow-up Commission, provided for in the Doha Document, held an extraordinary meeting in Doha to consider the implications of the event occurring on 12 May on the peace process. The Commission adopted a communiqué condemning JEM-Gibril and demanding the immediate release of the JEM-Bashar members taken hostage. Participants also expressed strong concern about the deteriorating security situation in Darfur and its impact on the civilian population. In that regard, they urged that all the perpetrators of violence in Darfur should be held accountable and brought to justice. Finally, they appealed to the major non-signatory movements to renounce violence and resolve their differences through peaceful dialogue.

5. On 17 and 18 June, the newly appointed African Union and United Nations Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator for Darfur, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, hosted a retreat in El Fasher for special envoys for the Sudan to discuss current developments across the region, including the state of the peace process, the security and humanitarian situation, and the way forward. Participants included representatives from Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, South Africa, Sweden, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the European Union and the African Union. They welcomed the initiative of the Joint Chief Mediator to revitalize the peace process, including through the complementary processes of renewed engagement of the non-signatory movements and the prompt conduct of Darfur-based consultations in a suitable enabling environment in order to promote an inclusive and locally owned peace process. Regarding progress on the former, the Joint Chief Mediator briefed them on his meetings in May with the Presidents of the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Chad, during which each of the leaders had emphasized the importance of an all-inclusive approach for the achievement of durable peace in Darfur. To that end, while in Kampala, he held a meeting with the leaders of the major non-signatory movements, including Minni Minawi, the leader of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA-Minni Minawi); Abdul Wahid, the leader of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA-Abdul Wahid); and a senior representative of JEM-Gibril. The parties welcomed the initiative and agreed to meet with the Joint Chief Mediator after the month of Ramadan.

Implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur

6. The pace of implementing the Doha Document continued to lag behind the revised timetables. In an effort to comprehensively mobilize support for Darfur's development needs, the International Donor Conference for Reconstruction and Development in Darfur was held in Doha on 7 and 8 April. Participants endorsed the Darfur Development Strategy, which was based on the needs assessment conducted by the Darfur Joint Assessment Mission led by the Darfur Regional Authority and international development partners. Against the identified funding requirements of $7.2 billion for the implementation of the Strategy over a period of six years, donors pledged a total of $3.6 billion. The latter included the previous commitment of $2.6 billion by the Government of the Sudan.

7. Donor commitments are still being sought for the Darfur Development Strategy, which faces a funding shortfall of $3.6 billion. Some potential donors, however, have indicated a reluctance to commit funds, given that little progress has been made in the implementation of the Doha Document; that there is recurring

insecurity in some parts of Darfur; and that access restrictions continue to be imposed on humanitarian and development partners and UNAMID.

8. Participants in the fifth meeting of the Implementation Follow-up Commission on the Doha Document, held in Doha on 9 April, expressed concern over the limited movement by LJM and the Government of the Sudan towards its implementation. In particular, they noted the persistent delays related to the implementation of the provisions of the ceasefire and final security arrangements. The continued stalemate over the results of the verification of LJM forces and the failure of the parties to implement the decision of the Joint Commission, as reported in my previous report (S/2013/225, para. 6), were seen as a critical impediment to progress. In addition, establishment of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, a microfinance system for income-generating activities and a compensation fund remained outstanding.

9. On 24 April, LJM announced the suspension of its participation in the Government, including in the Darfur Regional Authority. The move was made in protest over the removal of its Minister of Health in Western Darfur State by the State Legislative Council; the expulsion from the Sudan of the International Republican Institute, a United States Government-sponsored organization that had been providing capacity-building support to LJM and the Darfur Regional Authority; and delayed implementation of the provisions relating to the final security arrangements of the Doha Document, in particular the integration of its ex-combatants into the Sudanese Armed Forces. Subsequent to the emergency meetings held on 25 April, between the First Vice-President of the Sudan, Ali Osman Taha, and the LJM/Darfur Regional Authority Chair, El Tigani Seisi, the parties announced the resolution of their differences, given the commitment by the Government to review the expulsion of the International Republican Institute and to take appropriate steps to address the implementation of the final security arrangements.

10. On 16 May, the Government of the Sudan issued a decree establishing the Darfur Regional Security Committee and appointing its members. The Committee is chaired by the Chair of the Darfur Regional Authority, with the walis (governors) of the five Darfur States acting as deputies. The Minister of Finance and Planning of the Darfur Regional Authority, the Legal Adviser of the Authority and the State security committees are also members. The Committee is responsible for the maintenance of security in Darfur.

11. The Special Prosecutor continued to investigate crimes committed in Darfur. On 28 May, the Special Prosecutor informed UNAMID that a total of 52 cases had been investigated, including 1 in Central Darfur, 1 in Eastern Darfur, 30 in Northern Darfur, 14 in Southern Darfur and 6 in Western Darfur. No further details on the types of crimes or the status of their prosecution were provided to UNAMID.

Darfur-based dialogue

12. With regard to the conduct of the Darfur-based internal dialogue and consultations, on 8 April, the facilitators — UNAMID, the African Union High-level Panel on Darfur and Qatar — endorsed a strategy prepared by UNAMID for the development of the consultations. The facilitators are tasked with establishing a committee, whose members will include representatives of the signatory parties to the Doha Document, civil society, internally displaced persons, refugees, the Darfur diaspora, UNAMID and international partners, to prepare and conduct

the consultations. A concept note to guide the exercise, including modalities for the selection of participants, a communication strategy and budget, is being developed. UNAMID will continue to monitor and report on the enabling environment. In that regard, it will take into account the lessons learned from the arrangements made for, and the conduct of, the conference held in Nyala, Southern Darfur, on 25 and 26 March on the security and development needs of displaced persons, as well as from the incident in which 31 participants under UNAMID protection were abducted en route to the conference by armed assailants (see S/2013/225, paras. 10 and 11). The conference was attended, inter alia, by representatives of civil society and internally displaced persons. In the meantime, the demonstrations held on 5 and 6 April by internally displaced persons in camps in Central and Southern Darfur opposing the Doha Document and protesting the conduct of the International Donor Conference for Reconstruction and Development in Darfur, occurred without major incident.

III. Protection of civilians from physical violence

13. Intercommunal fighting involving militia in Central, Northern and Southern Darfur and clashes between Government forces and the armed movements in Central and Eastern Darfur significantly increased the risk of physical violence perpetrated against the civilian population. Such conflicts, which have increased in intensity and frequency since January 2013, have resulted in an estimated 300,000 people being displaced, more than the combined total displaced in Darfur within the past two years.

14. On 6 April, SLA-Minni Minawi forces seized control of Labado and Muhajeria towns in Eastern Darfur from the Government. In an attempt to dislodge SLA-Minni Minawi, Sudanese Armed Forces aircraft conducted intermittent aerial bombing of suspected rebel positions in the two towns from 6 to 13 April. An estimated 17,100 civilians took refuge around the two UNAMID bases located nearby. Although a UNAMID patrol confirmed two bomb craters near its base in Labado, widespread movement restrictions imposed by Government forces and the armed movements prevented the mission from assessing the full impact of the hostilities, including verifying reports of casualties, which varied widely.

15. On 16 April, Government military forces, reinforced by armed militia and supported by air operations, regained control of the two towns. While the situation in the area remained tense, no further clashes were reported. On 19 April, three days after Government forces regained control of Muhajeria, armed men in military uniforms attacked the nearby UNAMID base. One peacekeeper was killed and two others injured during the exchange of fire. One of the attackers was also killed. UNAMID engaged Government authorities in investigating the attack; however, the perpetrators have yet to be brought to justice.

16. The Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission estimated that over 60,000 people had been displaced as a result of the fighting. UNAMID protected civilians concentrated near its bases; provided primary health-care services; facilitated the delivery of humanitarian assistance; secured humanitarian personnel operating in the affected areas; and called upon the parties to cease hostilities.

17. Fighting between the parties resumed in Southern Darfur on 22 April, with the Sudanese Armed Forces repelling an attempted attack by SLA-Minni Minawi forces

in the vicinity of Nyala airport. Two days later, local community sources reported armed clashes occurring between the parties in Bileil locality (approximately 47 km south-east of Nyala), including Baba, Marla and Um Gunia villages. On 3 May, SLA-Minni Minawi forces attacked Government Popular Defence Forces based in Joghana and Mashrou (approximately 100 km south of Nyala) reportedly killing six Popular Defence Forces and looting fuel and other supplies. On 8 May, Government forces, supported by armed militia, attacked SLA-Minni Minawi forces in Abu Jabra village (30 km north of Greida). According to community sources, the village was looted and burned, causing the displacement of the civilian population to various locations in Greida and Al Salam localities in Southern Darfur. Movement restrictions imposed by armed militia prevented UNAMID from accessing the area to verify the incident. No further reports of fighting were reported in the area. On 15 May, however, Government authorities alleged that a commercial convoy en route to Nyala had been ambushed by SLA-Minni Minawi forces near Khor Makta (15 km west of Shaeria, Eastern Darfur), in which passengers had been robbed of personal belongings and four of the vehicles had been commandeered.

18. On 9 June, in Nertiti, Central Darfur, Government authorities alleged that a military convoy transporting soldiers' salaries had been ambushed by armed men affiliated with the SLA-Abdul Wahid forces. While the assailants were reportedly prevented from stealing the money, one Government soldier was killed and four injured in the incident. Later in the same day, residents of a nearby camp for internally displaced persons reported that Government soldiers had entered the camp and burned 25 houses and buildings, including a non-governmental organization nutrition centre, and had killed livestock. A national aid worker was killed and several camp residents were injured by the shooting at the camp. The mission increased its patrolling in the area and called on community leaders and local security officials to exercise restraint.

19. Intercommunal fighting continued to be a significant source of insecurity for the civilian population in several parts of Darfur during the reporting period. An attempted robbery in Um Dukhun locality in Central Darfur in early April triggered a series of clashes involving the Misseriya and Ta'aisha tribes, on the one hand, and the Salamat tribe, on the other, across parts of Central and Southern Darfur between 3 and 6 April. According to community sources, the fighting led to the killing of over 100 people from both sides, destruction of property and massive displacement. Repeated attempts by UNAMID to access Um Dukhun in the days that followed were denied by local authorities who maintained that the conflict, which was intercommunal in nature, did not require UNAMID intervention. Tensions subsided shortly after local dispute resolution mechanisms were activated and Government security forces deployed to the area.

20. On 10 April, the tribes agreed to a cessation of hostilities in advance of a reconciliation conference to be held on 30 April. Fighting continued, however, with local community sources reporting clashes between the Misseriya, supported by the Ta'aisha, and the Salamat on 17 April in Rehed el Birdi, Southern Darfur, displacing an estimated 3,000 people to Nyala town. Movement restrictions imposed by Government security forces, however, continued to prevent UNAMID from assessing the full impact of the violence.

21. On 25 April, UNAMID provided protection to an inter-agency mission undertaken to Um Dukhun, which included the Humanitarian Aid Commission

assessing the humanitarian situation and the protection of civilians in the area. According to local authorities, an estimated 11,200 people were displaced by the clashes to areas in Southern Darfur, including 5,000 who were reported to have crossed the border into Chad. The mission delivered essential medical supplies to a clinic operated by a non-governmental organization in Um Dukhun town.

22. Clashes between the tribes on 28 and 29 April, involving attempted attacks on the tribal leadership of both the Misseriya and Salamat, forced the reconciliation conference scheduled for 30 April to be postponed. In support of State efforts to reconcile the feuding tribes, on 6 May, UNAMID transported the Wali of Central Darfur and his delegation to Um Dukhun. Separately, UNAMID met with local government officials and community leaders who stated that the conflict involving the Salamat, Misseriya and Ta'aisha was rooted in unresolved issues related to land ownership. Sporadic fighting between the tribes continued throughout the month of May, including clashes on 27 May in Al Gara'aya and Um Sawri (15 km south of Um Dukhun) in which local sources reported that 32 people from both sides had been killed.

23. On 2 June, UNAMID facilitated the transport of 17 Misseriya and Salamat leaders from Um Dukuhn to Zalingei to participate in the reconciliation conference convened by State authorities. During the conference, both parties presented their grievances, including the list of casualties and damages, to the reconciliation mechanism for consideration in their deliberations on the modalities for the settlement of the dispute between the tribes. Despite the ongoing reconciliation effort, Misseriya and Salamat fighters clashed sporadically throughout several parts of Central Darfur between 10 and 19 June, with reports regarding the number of casualties, destruction of property and infrastructure and population displacement varying widely. A UNAMID patrol tasked with verifying the impact of one such incident, occurring in Orokom village (17 km south-east of Zalingei) on 19 June, was denied access by Misseriya militia surrounding the village. UNAMID reinforced its presence and held its position overnight to protect civilians relocating to Zalingei town and until tensions subsided.

24. In Ed Al Fursan locality, Southern Darfur, clashes between the Beni Halba and Gimir tribes over land ownership, which had begun in Batikha village (95 km south-west of Ed Al Fursan) in February, continued sporadically throughout the months of April and May. Attempts by Southern Darfur State authorities to resolve the dispute, including through a 25 April decree demarcating the administrative borders between the Beni Halba and Gimir tribes in Katilla and Ed Al Fursan localities, proved ineffective. According to local authorities, on 22 May, Beni Halba militias attacked Katilla (38 km south of Ed Al Fursan), a town predominantly inhabited by the Gimir tribe, resulting in an unspecified number of houses and Government buildings destroyed; 31 civilians reportedly killed and 21 injured; and an estimated 13,000 people displaced. Government security forces were deployed to the area to quell the fighting. Clashes continued on 27 and 28 May in Intakana (50 km south of Katilla), resulting in what community sources reported as approximately 90 casualties incurred by both sides. On 23 and 24 June, local authorities reported renewed attacks by Beni Halba militia on several Gimir villages in Katilla. Gimir leaders have since stated their unwillingness to participate in any reconciliation initiatives. Influential tribal leaders engaged by UNAMID to discuss the stalled reconciliation process observed that the Gimir lacked confidence in the

neutrality of State authorities to mediate the dispute, while the Beni Halba were refusing to accept the proposed demarcation of land between the tribes.

25. A reconciliation conference scheduled for 15 April to resolve the ongoing dispute between the Aballa and Beni Hussein tribes over the administration of the Jebel Amir gold mines in Northern Darfur was postponed indefinitely at the behest of the reconciliation committee chaired by the Deputy Wali of Northern Darfur, which cited that more time was needed for the tensions between the groups to subside. UNAMID, nevertheless, continued to support activities to create space for peaceful negotiations. On 12 and 13 April, UNAMID conducted a workshop in El Sereif, Northern Darfur, for Beni Hussein leaders, including prominent members from Central, Northern and Southern Darfur, as well as from White Nile State and Khartoum, to discuss the root causes of the conflict. Similar workshops were sponsored by UNAMID for Aballa leaders in Kutum and Kabkabiya, Northern Darfur. Yet another round of workshops on peaceful coexistence and reconciliation was sponsored by UNAMID for both communities from 13 to 15 May. The outcomes of those initiatives identified strengthening local governance mechanisms, empowerment of the native administration, bringing perpetrators of violence to justice, compensation and respect for land ownership as essential to the resolution of the conflict.

26. In a meeting on 5 May with the Deputy Wali of Northern Darfur, UNAMID was informed that approximately 50,000 people had resumed mining activities in Jebel Amir. State authorities communicated that the mine would not be shut down because such a move would have a negative impact on the already fragile socioeconomic and security environment in the area. No date was specified for the postponed reconciliation conference.

27. Low-intensity conflicts between the tribes continued throughout May and June, often sparked by instances of cattle rustling perpetrated by both tribes. On 21 June, rumour of an impending attack by Aballa militia on El Sereif prompted Beni Hussein militia to gather at Al Jaheira area, outside El Sereif. Despite intervention by local authorities to diffuse tensions and disperse the Beni Hussein militia from the area, Aballa militia later launched an attack on Al Jaheira, reigniting tensions between the tribes. In anticipation of an escalation of hostilities, UNAMID reinforced its temporary operating base in El Sereif town and increased confidence-building patrols in the area, while continuing to urge the leadership of both tribes to end hostilities and proceed with reconciliation negotiations. A delegation of influential Aballa leaders from Khartoum, including leading officials of the National Congress Party, Darfur Regional Authority and the Supreme Council for Nomad Development, also proceeded to the area to promote reconciliation between the tribes.

28. On 27 June, fighting intensified between the tribes in the areas of El Delaba (approximately 15 km north of El Sereif), Jebel Utash (approximately 21 km west of El Sereif), and in Zreaga and Khedira (approximately 25 km north of El Sereif). UNAMID dispatched patrols to the affected areas and evacuated 27 injured civilians from El Sereif to El Fasher.

IV. Security situation and freedom of movement

29. Between 1 April and 26 June, the mission's movements over land were restricted on 40 occasions, compared with 27 in the previous reporting period. In the same period, Government authorities denied 141 out of the 5,435 flight requests made, compared with the 75 denied out of the 4,844 made in the previous period. The majority of the restrictions continued to be imposed by Government forces or the armed movements on UNAMID flights and patrols into areas of ongoing insecurity, including Um Dukhun in Central Darfur, Muhajeriya and Labado in Eastern Darfur and Abu Jabra in Southern Darfur.

30. While humanitarian organizations were able to deliver aid to most of the people in need of assistance in Darfur, including the 1.4 million people living in camps for internally displaced persons, access to populations in conflict-affected areas remained constrained. According to a Government directive on humanitarian work in the Sudan that was issued in March, access by international humanitarian organization to conflict-affected areas is fully restricted. In that connection, intermittent restrictions were imposed by Government authorities on United Nations Humanitarian Air Service flights, humanitarian trucks and personnel to Greida in Southern Darfur; United Nations Humanitarian Air Service flights to move relief supplies and personnel to Um Dukhun in Central Darfur. Restrictions were also imposed on the movement of relief stocks by road to areas in Eastern Darfur.

Safety and security

31. The safety and security situation of UNAMID and humanitarian personnel remained of concern. UNAMID peacekeepers came under attack on three occasions during the reporting period, including the attack on a UNAMID base in Muhajeria, Eastern Darfur. One peacekeeper was killed and two others injured during the incident (see para. 15 above). On 1 May, unidentified armed assailants attacked UNAMID peacekeepers guarding a water borehole near the UNAMID base in Ed Al Fursan, Southern Darfur. One peacekeeper was moderately injured in the exchange of fire. On 28 June, a group of unidentified armed assailants ambushed a UNAMID patrol near Khor Abeche, Southern Darfur. The assailants seized four vehicles and military equipment. One peacekeeper and one national staff member were also briefly detained. No casualties or injuries were reported. An investigation into the incident is ongoing.

32. One national staff member of a non-governmental humanitarian aid organization was killed on 9 June, in a shooting incident involving Government soldiers in Nertiti internally displaced persons camp, Central Darfur (see para. 18 above).

33. On 21 April, four unidentified armed assailants kidnapped an international staff member of the World Food Programme in Nyala, Southern Darfur. Immediate intervention by local security authorities ensured the safe release of the staff member later that day.

34. A total of 50 incidents of banditry involving house break-ins and robberies targeting UNAMID and humanitarian personnel were recorded during the reporting period. On 30 May, three trucks belonging to Supreme, the UNAMID rations contractor, were ambushed en route to Labado in Eastern Darfur by armed militia near Ishma village (25 km east of Nyala, Southern Darfur) and an unspecified amount of supplies were looted. A total of nine carjacking incidents targeting

vehicles of UNAMID, agencies of the United Nations system and international non-governmental organizations also occurred during the reporting period. UNAMID continues to identify shortfalls in security and institute mitigation measures, while calling on Government authorities to hold the perpetrators accountable.

V. Humanitarian situation

35. Continued violence increased the vulnerability of civilians, particularly in parts of Central, Eastern and Southern Darfur. In the past three months, a total of 157,000 people were reported to have been displaced as a result of military clashes and heavy intercommunal fighting.

36. According to Government estimates, over 60,000 people were displaced following military clashes in Muhajeria and Labado towns in Eastern Darfur. Of those, United Nations agencies assessed that 10,100 had sought protection around the UNAMID base in Muhajeria and 7,000 around the UNAMID base in Labado, while others were displaced to areas further south and east of the two towns. UNAMID escorted two humanitarian aid convoys transporting 45 metric tons of food aid, non-food items, water, sanitation and medical supplies for distribution at both locations.

37. Despite Government forces regaining control of the two towns, persistent insecurity forced the bulk of those sheltering next to the UNAMID bases to relocate. Preliminary estimates by humanitarian organizations indicate that 38,000 displaced persons have arrived in the camps for internally displaced persons around Nyala, Southern Darfur (25,500 to Kalma camp; 6,500 to Dereige camp; and 6,000 to Otash camp). An estimated 11,000 people have arrived at the El Neem internally displaced persons camp in Eastern Darfur, while 8,000 remained around the UNAMID base in Labado.

38. Military clashes in Bileil and Greida localities in Southern Darfur led to the displacement of an estimated 23,000 people. Of those, 4,000 have been verified by humanitarian agencies as having arrived at Al Salam and 1,500 at Greida camps. UNAMID provided escorts for humanitarian agencies to assist the new arrivals with food, health, water and sanitation services, as well as non-food items and emergency shelter.

39. Intercommunal clashes involving the Misseriya, Ta'aisha and Salamat tribes in Central and Southern Darfur resulted in the displacement of an estimated 45,000 people. Of those, 27,000 crossed into Chad and were registered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, while the remaining 18,000 people were displaced to various locations in Southern Darfur. Fighting between the Gimir and Beni Halba tribes in Katilla locality, Southern Darfur, led to the displacement of an estimated 29,000 people. Humanitarian agencies conducted needs assessments and provided assistance.

40. Throughout the reporting period, humanitarian agencies continued to address the food and non-food relief needs, including health, water and sanitation of those who were displaced in January by the intercommunal fighting in the Jebel Amir area in Northern Darfur. In April, aid workers distributed food and non-food relief supplies to over 41,000 of those displaced in El Sireif locality, Northern Darfur. In

May, 1.5 tons of medical supplies were provided to health clinics operating in El Sereif and Saraf Umra. A measles vaccination campaign conducted by the State Ministry of Health and the United Nations Children's Fund, reached 47,000 children displaced to Kabkabiya, Saraf Umrah, Abu Gamra, Gera El Zawia, and El Sereif in Northern Darfur.

41. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, visited the Sudan from 20 to 23 May to assess the challenging humanitarian situation in the country. She noted an overall increase in humanitarian needs on account of additional conflict-induced displacements, particularly in Darfur, and significant shortfalls in funding for humanitarian operations. As of June, only 33 per cent of the $624 million required in the United Nations and Partners' Work Plan for Sudan humanitarian projects in Darfur has been covered. The shortfall has been attributed to donor reluctance, given the limited access to people in need, among other factors. At the conclusion of her visit, the Under-Secretary-General reflected on the ongoing suffering of conflict-affected civilians in the Sudan and called for an end to violence and the resolution of conflict through peaceful means.

VI. Rule of law, governance and human rights

42. The overall number of human rights violations recorded by UNAMID increased from 117 incidents involving 347 victims in the previous period to 126 incidents involving 557 victims in the reporting period (283 victims of violations of the right to life, 236 victims of violations of the right to physical integrity, 30 victims of sexual and gender-based violence and 8 victims of arbitrary arrest and detention). Access restrictions owing to the security situation adversely affected the ability of UNAMID to conduct timely site visits to locations of reported human rights violations and abuses, including to Um Dukhun, Mukjar and East Jebel Mara in Central Darfur; and Um Gonya, Abu Jabra, Marla, Rehad el Birdi, and Katalya in Southern Darfur.

43. During the reporting period, UNAMID recorded 44 incidents of the violation of the right to life involving 283 victims, compared with 40 incidents involving 125 victims in the previous report. Heavy intercommunal fighting involving militias and clashes between Government forces and the armed movements were the primary cause of the fatalities.

44. Attacks on civilians, including internally displaced persons, continued to result in violations of the right to physical integrity. UNAMID recorded 50 incidents involving 236 victims, compared with 49 incidents involving 176 victims in the previous period. Attacks included physical assaults, the razing of homes and villages to the ground and the looting of personal property and livestock. Paramilitary Government forces, specifically the Central Reserve Police, Popular Defence Forces and border guards, were often identified by survivors and community leaders as perpetrators in many of the reported incidents. UNAMID conducted confidence- and capacity-building patrols and provided a visible presence in camps. The mission also helped to empower the local population to contribute to the reduction of crime in conjunction with national police by training 86 community policing volunteers and setting up a total of 142 community safety committees in camps and villages

throughout its area of operations. In addition, UNAMID trained a total of 390 police personnel on human rights, community policing and gender-based violence.

45. UNAMID recorded seven incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention involving eight victims during the reporting period, compared with six incidents involving eight victims in the previous period. In one such incident, occurring on 2 June, Government military intelligence officers released without charge a victim arrested on 12 May for his suspected affiliation with a rebel movement operating in Northern Darfur. Fear of reprisal has contributed to the underreporting of such incidents by victims and community leaders alike.

46. UNAMID recorded 26 incidents of sexual and gender-based violence involving 30 victims, 8 of whom were minors, compared with 22 incidents involving 38 victims, 4 of whom were minors, in the previous reporting period. A total of 16 cases involving 17 victims, 4 of whom were minors, were incidents of rape. Eight cases involving 11 victims, 4 of whom were minors, were incidents of gang rape. The remaining two cases were incidents of sexual harassment involving two victims. As in previous reporting periods, underreporting of sexual and gender-based violence remained a challenge owing to social stigma and the lack of confidence in Government authorities to investigate and prosecute such crime. UNAMID undertook activities to help to address those concerns by conducting workshops on sexual and gender-based violence for a total of 140 Government officials and community leaders throughout Darfur.

47. UNAMID continued to provide technical assistance to both State and non-State counterparts in order to build their capacity to recognize, analyse and proactively address human rights issues in Darfur. Since August 2012, UNAMID has conducted 40 human rights trainings and workshops for 1,200 persons, including State legislators, local government authorities, judges, prosecutors, private sector lawyers, teachers, native administrators and internally displaced persons.

48. Similarly, UNAMID strengthened judicial and corrections capacity in Darfur and supported the functioning of the institutions provided for in the Doha Document. Since August 2012, the mission has delivered a total of 23 training sessions and workshops on justice and corrections issues to a total of 679 participants, including members of the judiciary and legal practitioners, law enforcement officials, members of the Darfur Regional Authority and community leaders.

Child protection

49. UNAMID promoted local ownership of the protection of children agenda through training sessions covering international norms and standards for 90 persons, including local media practitioners, health workers, internally displaced persons and former combatants of LJM. Similar training sessions were conducted to raise the awareness of UNAMID personnel.

50. The action plan to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers by the Sudanese Armed Forces, approved by the Ministry of Defence in August 2012, is pending the approval of the Ministry of the Interior.

VII. UNAMID deployment and operations

51. As at 26 June 2013, the strength of UNAMID civilian personnel stood at 84 per cent of the approved strength of 5,277 (2,914 national staff, 1,082 international staff and 445 United Nations Volunteers).

52. The strength of UNAMID military personnel stood at 14,800, including 14,139 troops, 324 staff officers, 253 military observers and 84 liaison officers.

53. The number of UNAMID individual police officers stood at 2,527, comprising 84 per cent men and 16 per cent women. The authorized 17 formed police units have been deployed.

54. During the reporting period, UNAMID military personnel conducted 13,715 patrols, including 7,412 routine patrols; 2,074 administrative patrols; 2,285 night patrols; 1,058 humanitarian escorts; 572 short-range patrols; and 314 long-range patrols. UNAMID police personnel conducted a total of 16,607 patrols, including 12,041 inside camps for internally displaced persons; 2,907 in villages, towns and markets; 1,299 medium-range patrols; 234 long-range patrols; and 126 firewood and farm patrols.

55. From 1 April to 26 June 2013, the Sudanese authorities issued 1,395 new entry visas for UNAMID personnel. As at 26 June, 802 visas were pending, 454 of which were for civilian police officers, 297 for civilian personnel and 51 for military personnel. UNAMID continued to urge the authorities to approve all visa requests promptly.

56. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2063 (2012), the implementation of the results of the review of UNAMID uniformed personnel continued. For the military component, the repatriation of a Well-Drilling Unit and an Engineering Unit were completed, with one Light Field Engineering Unit rescheduled for December 2013. The deployment of a force reserve company, an infantry battalion and a Military Utility Helicopter Unit are in progress. Adjustments continued to be made to the police component; however, delays in the issuance of visas for incoming police personnel have made it necessary to extend the tour of duty of some police currently serving in the mission in order to maintain the trajectory towards right-sizing of the police component. The deployment of the last unit of the 17 authorized formed police units was completed. Reductions in the mission's overall troop and police strength are scheduled to reach the authorized ceilings by 31 January 2014.

57. Regarding the operational and self-sustainment capabilities of troop and police contingents, only 11 of the 44 military and police units currently deployed to UNAMID have achieved a major equipment serviceability rate above the 90 per cent threshold. Conversely, the serviceability rate of some units has declined, with seven units below 43.6 per cent. In the area of self-sustainment capabilities, only 10 units fully meet the requirements stipulated in the relevant memorandums of understanding. The remainder are lacking some self-sustainment capabilities and are partially supported by the mission. Such shortfalls, which mainly pertain to the serviceability of armoured personnel carriers, continue to adversely affect operations. The Secretariat continued to engage with troop- and police-contributing countries in order to encourage them to swiftly address shortcomings in contingent-owned equipment.

58. On 15 April, the 15th tripartite coordination mechanism meeting between the Government of the Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations was held in Addis Ababa. Discussion focused on issues of access, contingent-owned equipment, the issuance of visas and UNAMID radio frequency. Increased coordination and information-sharing with Government authorities at the technical level was agreed in order to resolve pending mission support issues as they occurred. The Government pledged to resolve the situation regarding the pending visas and to conduct a review, together with UNAMID, of the continued validity of long-standing visa applications for 2011 and 2012. There was no progress towards obtaining a license for UNAMID radio operations.

59. During the reporting period, a total of 27 quick-impact projects were completed; 38 additional projects are ongoing and at various stages of implementation.

60. In April, UNAMID and local implementing partners concluded and handed over the remaining 3 of the first phase of 17 community-based labour-intensive projects for youth who are at risk of joining armed groups or gangs in Darfur. A second phase also commenced, involving 16 projects focused on infrastructure development (building of schools and community centres) and targeting over 2,000 youth across Darfur.

61. UNAMID continued to reduce the threat posed by unexploded ordnance in Darfur. A total of 1,661 km of roads and pathways and 55 km^2 of land were assessed as being free of unexploded ordnance. A total of 51 unexploded ordnances were destroyed. In addition, UNAMID delivered unexploded ordnance risk education training to 13,464 civilians (24 per cent of whom were women and 64 per cent of whom were children).

VIII. Progress against benchmarks

62. Paragraphs 63 to 66 of the present report contain an assessment of the progress made by UNAMID against the updated benchmarks and indicators set out in my report of 16 October 2012 (S/2012/771, annex I).

63. Progress against the first benchmark, which pertains to the achievement of a comprehensive political solution to the Darfur conflict, was limited during the reporting period. This was primarily due to the resolve of the non-signatory movements, as stated in the manifesto of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front umbrella group, to pursue a change in the central government through military means. Continued military clashes between Government forces and the non-signatory armed movements precluded the resumption of peace negotiations between the movements and the Government of the Sudan, despite ongoing efforts by the Joint Chief Mediator to identify a common ground for negotiations. The leadership of the one breakaway faction, JEM-Bashar, which had signed the agreement adopting the Doha Document, was killed, soon thereafter, by JEM-Gibril forces. Regarding the implementation of the Doha Document, notwithstanding the holding of the International Donor Conference for Reconstruction and Development in Darfur and its endorsement of the Darfur Development Strategy, delays in the implementation of several of the provisions contained in the Doha Document continued, particularly in respect of the final security arrangements, reconciliation, compensation and initiation of reconstruction and development projects for Darfur.

64. The second benchmark relates to the restoration of a stable and secure environment throughout Darfur. During the reporting period, reports of civilian casualties and widespread population displacement remained high owing to military clashes and a considered increase in heavy intercommunal fighting in several parts of Darfur. That, together with attacks on UNAMID and the restrictions imposed on its movement by Government authorities and armed groups, contributed to the lack of progress against the benchmark. Against such a backdrop, and under the access permitted, UNAMID contributed to the protection of civilians, facilitated the safe delivery of humanitarian aid and promoted reconciliation efforts at the local level.

65. The third benchmark concerns strengthening the rule of law, governance and the protection of human rights. The overall human rights situation in Darfur remained of serious concern. Incidents of human rights violations and abuses, including those related to the violations of the right to life and physical integrity, continued unabated, while lack of accountability for those violations remained endemic. Although UNAMID continued to support capacity-building for Government authorities, the Darfur Regional Authority and civil society groups with a view to protecting and promoting human rights and to upholding the rule of law, indications of progress against the benchmark were minimal.

66. The fourth benchmark pertains to stabilizing the humanitarian situation and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the conduct of early recovery. Widespread deterioration of the security situation, particularly in Central, Eastern and Southern Darfur owing to heavy intercommunal violence and military clashes, continued to cause substantial displacement; significantly increasing the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance. In addition, access restrictions imposed by Government authorities and the armed movements continued to hinder the conduct of timely humanitarian needs assessments and the distribution of urgently needed relief aid to affected populations. That, together with attacks and the constant threat of kidnapping and carjacking involving UNAMID and humanitarian aid workers during the reporting period resulted in a continued regression against the benchmark.

IX. Financial aspects

67. The General Assembly, by its resolution 66/279, appropriated the amount of $1,448.6 million for the maintenance of the Operation for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. As of 20 June 2013, the 2013/14 budget is under consideration by the General Assembly.

68. As at 20 June 2013, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNAMID amounted to $113.2 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $1,254.2 million.

69. Reimbursements to contributing Governments for troops and formed police costs, and for contingent-owned equipment costs has been made for the period up to 30 April 2013 and 31 March 2013, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

X. Observations

70. Since my previous report (S/2013/225), efforts aimed at a comprehensive and all-inclusive peace for Darfur continue to be fraught with challenges. These include, in particular, increasing and widespread intercommunal fighting in several parts of Darfur and continued military clashes between Government forces and non-signatory armed movements. Most worrisome is the devastating impact that those developments have had on innocent civilians, and the obstacles they have created for humanitarian operations and the implementation of the Doha Document.

71. I am deeply disturbed by the killing of Mohamed Bashar, the leader of JEM-Bashar, and several other members of his faction by JEM-Gibril forces shortly after JEM-Bashar had become a signatory party to the Doha Document. I am concerned by the potential of this incident to erode confidence in a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Darfur. However, I note that JEM-Bashar has announced new leadership and has reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Doha Document. A political solution to the conflict in Darfur remains the only viable option for all belligerent parties. The pursuit of political objectives through military means over the past 10 years has only contributed to the prolonged suffering of the people of Darfur. I therefore reiterate my call upon the Government of the Sudan and the remaining non-signatory armed movements to immediately cease hostilities and commit to peaceful negotiations, without preconditions.

72. Two years have passed since the Government of the Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement signed the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. Implementation of its provisions continues at an unacceptably slow pace. Tangible improvements in the lives of the people of Darfur, including through improved security, reconstruction and development, support for voluntary and sustainable returns and the promotion of justice and reconciliation, have yet to materialize.

73. The International Donor Conference for Reconstruction and Development in Darfur, held in Doha on 7 and 8 April, was a welcome development in advancing the achievement of a sustainable peace for Darfur. The Darfur Development Strategy, which was endorsed by donors and includes tangible peace dividends, is a practical plan for the long-term recovery and development of Darfur. I urge donors and the Government of the Sudan to promptly honour the pledges made for the implementation of the Strategy. I also encourage the Government of the Sudan and the Darfur Regional Authority to swiftly address donor concerns related to security and access in Darfur.

74. I remain deeply concerned about the prevailing security situation in Darfur, which has, without a doubt, deteriorated over the past six months. A combination of sporadic military clashes and, in particular, heavy intercommunal fighting, has contributed to an alarming 300,000 people displaced since January 2013. I call upon all belligerent parties to refrain from attacks on civilian areas and remind both the Government of the Sudan and the non-signatory armed movements of their responsibilities under international humanitarian law to ensure the safety and security of the civilian population. I urge the Government of the Sudan to do more to protect civilians, promote reconciliation and peaceful coexistence among communities in conflict and establish effective strategies to address issues related to land ownership and resource management, in particular.

75. It is unfortunate that against such a backdrop of increasing protection and humanitarian needs in Darfur, UNAMID and humanitarian actors continue to face impediments to their operations. Restrictions of movement, in particular to conflict-affected areas, and delayed clearances for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to communities in need are indeed disappointing. I once again call upon all parties to the conflict to cooperate fully with UNAMID and humanitarian organizations, lift all impediments and allow the mission and those organizations to implement their respective mandates without restriction.

76. In that context, in particular in the absence of an inclusive peace agreement, it remains essential that UNAMID continue to contribute to the protection of civilians; facilitate the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance and assist the signatory parties in the implementation of the Doha Document. Accordingly, I recommend that the Security Council consider extending the mandate of UNAMID by one year.

77. UNAMID, together with the African Union High-level Panel on Darfur and Qatar, will work to ensure that the implementation of the Darfur-based internal dialogue and consultations provided for in the Doha Document begins in earnest to promote local ownership of the Darfur peace process, increase its inclusiveness and inform a national dialogue on the future of the Sudan. UNAMID, in line with successive Security Council resolutions, will support the development and conduct of the consultations and will continue to monitor and report on the enabling environment in which all Darfur stakeholders are able to participate freely and without fear of reprisal.

78. Turning to the safety and security of UNAMID and humanitarian personnel, I condemn, in the strongest terms, the attack on the UNAMID base in Muhajeria which resulted in the death of one peacekeeper. I offer my sincere condolences to the Government of Nigeria and the family, friends and colleagues of the fallen peacekeeper. I was equally disturbed to hear of the killing of a national aid worker during a shooting incident inside a camp for internally displaced persons in Nertiti. Such acts are reprehensible and a violation of international law. I call upon the Government to bring the perpetrators of these heinous acts to justice.

79. I am relieved and grateful for the timely intervention by Government authorities, which secured the release of an aid worker within hours of his abduction. I expect the Government to bring to account those responsible for this and other criminal attacks perpetrated against those working to alleviate the suffering of the people of Darfur.

80. In conclusion, I would like to welcome Mohamed Ibn Chambas, the new African Union and United Nations Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator for Darfur, who assumed his duties on 1 April 2013. I also wish to express my gratitude for the service of the two outgoing UNAMID Deputy Special Representatives, Mohamed B. Yonis, who deserves much praise for his dedicated service to UNAMID for six and a half years in various capacities, including Deputy Joint Special Representative (Operations and Management), and Aichatou Mindaoudou Souleymane, who served as the Deputy Joint Special Representative (Political) from June 2011 to June 2013 and Acting Head of Mission and Joint Chief Mediator ad interim from August 2012 to May 2013. Finally, I should like to express my sincere appreciation to the men and women of UNAMID and all humanitarian aid workers for their tireless efforts, despite the setbacks encountered in recent months.